



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.

April 19, 2012
First Things First
4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, Arizona 85012

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Sub-Committee

Committee Members in Attendance	Karen Ortiz, Chair; Susan Jacobs, Sibieanne Martinez, Barb Mezzio, and Alan Taylor
Committee Members Attending Telephonically	Diane Fellows, Dorothy Johnson, and Jakob Raskob
Committee Members not in Attendance	Barb Milner
Staff Members in Attendance	Cami Ehler, Sandy Foreman, Karen Woodhouse, and Elsa Romero
Members of the Public in Attendance	Margaret Arnold-Rowells, Dawn Craft, Alison Comport, Eleanor Droegemeier, Sarah Gonzalez, Brooke Johnson, Sarah Ocampo, Aimee Kempton-Sarosi and Karen Yearwood
Facilitator	Leslie Anderson, Leslie Anderson Consulting, Inc.

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board Family, Friend and Neighbor (FFN) Sub-Committee was held on April 19, 2012, at First Things First, 4000 North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, Arizona. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ortiz at approximately 3:50 p.m. A brief welcome was made by Chair Ortiz; everyone in attendance introduced themselves and the organization which they represent.

Approval of March Meeting Notes

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting was made by Member Taylor. Motion seconded by Member Jacobs. Motion carried.

Decision on Goals for FFN Sub-Committee

Chair Ortiz gave a brief overview of the four goals the Sub-Committee will focus on during the next six months, including:

1. Promoting quality for children in FFN care
2. Defining Family, Friend and Neighbor care in Arizona
3. Identifying promising practices and models in Arizona and other states
4. Determining choices/outcomes for Family, Friend and Neighbor providers

Member Jacobs requested to consider adding an understanding of and general awareness about the prevalence of Family, Friend and Neighbor care and the importance of providing support for this population.

Member Milner was unable to be present, but sent a comment to Chair Ortiz to share with the Sub-Committee: to consider defining the complex population of Family, Friend and Neighbor care, outline what is currently being offered in our state, compare Arizona with other states that have similar FFN care licensing standards, create a long term plan for integrating FFN care into the system for promoting quality in early child care and education.

Defining FFN Care

Cami Ehler, First Things First Program Specialist, lead the Sub-Committee in the discussion of defining FFN care, inviting the public members and members on the telephone to participate in the discussion.

- Definition 1: Informal, unregulated child care for children birth – 5
 - For compensation or not
 - Daily or drop in
 - On regular basis
 - In or out of children's home
 - Provided by family members or neighbors
 - Not babysitting
- Definition 2: Combine those in *Sparkling Connections* and Bank Street. Ms. Ehler will forward to members prior to next meeting

Common Models and Promising Practices in FFN Care

A discussion of common models and promising practices was begun by Chair Ortiz. She indicated that this discussion would continue next month as well. Ms. Ehler then lead discussion of these questions:

- What are the common program models which support FFN care providers?
 - Play & Learn Groups
 - Home Visitation
 - Community Training and Support Groups
- What are promising practices and characteristics of these models?
 - Menu of services and flexibility to adapt models to different populations in Arizona, e.g. tribal communities, grandparents
 - Flexibility for models to change based on geographic location, e.g. rural, border communities
 - Provide multiple pathways based on needs and wishes of providers
 - ✓ Pathway to regulation and child care as a business
 - ✓ Pathway to quality improvement and learning new ideas
 - Bottom line of all: do what is good for children; create better environments for children
 - Goal is still that ALL children ready to succeed in school
 - Recognize importance of cultural and linguistic sensitivity in any model
 - Provision of resources and supports within the community

Alison Comport, Valley of the Sun United Way, Community Impact Program Manager, gave a presentation regarding research she has done on Family, Friend and Neighbor Care. (Attachment)

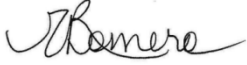
Next Steps

The next meeting of the Family, Friend and Neighbor Sub-Committee will be held on May 16, 2012, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at First Things First. Future meeting dates and frequency will be discussed at the May meeting, with meetings likely to commence again in September. Chair Ortiz informed the Sub-Committee that their work is to be completed by end of calendar year.

Adjourn

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Member Martinez. Member Jacobs seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED



Elsa Romero, Executive Staff Assistant

APPROVED



Sandy Foreman, Senior Director for Early Learning

Committee Approval:

Karen Ortiz, Chair